

POISONER A TABLE GUEST.

BY ROBERT FRANKLIN, IN TECHNICAL WORLD MAGAZINE.

PART ONE

It happens every day, and so one pays very little attention. Maybe it is the butter, or perhaps the slice of bread alongside one's plate. Or else, quite possibly, it is the milk in the pitcher. But, whatever it attracts the omnipresent fly, its appearance as it crawls over the food on the table is unappetizing.

This sort of thing seems to be unavoidable—wherefore the person who deems himself philosophical puts up with it patiently. Flies are an annoyance of course; they are even a nuisance—but, aside from the obvious precaution of window-screens, what is one to do? They are a kind of continuous plague that has always afflicted mankind, and presumably will afflict him in the future.

Here, expressed in a few words, is a pretty fair statement of the attitude of the people at large in regard to the insect. It represents a combination of ignorance with an indifference springing from long habit. But, before going further let us consider the facts of the above mentioned fly, which, having tasted the butter and sampled the bread is now by way of drowning himself in the milk pitcher.

Is the insect a desirable table guest? Well, hardly. Annoying? Yes, of course. But this is a trifling matter, relatively speaking. It is not only likely, but altogether certain that the fly in question has recently been walking over some sort of unspeakable nastiness and that his feet in particular are covered with putrefactive and other objectionable germs—which, as a matter of course, are freely transferred to the butter, the bread or any other food over which the insect crawls.

Unfortunately, a fondness for human food and drink is not the only weakness of the house-fly. Filth of all kinds has for him an irresistible attraction: and it is this commingling of tastes that makes him so dangerous. Above all things he seems to delight in feeding upon the waste products of the human body, and in this way it is that he exercises so important a function as a carrier of typhoid fever.

The health authorities of New York city estimate that about one-half of the deaths from typhoid in the metropolis annually are attributable to the distribution of the germs by flies. But, serious as this matter is, it is of vastly less importance than the destruction of human life, particularly that of young children by the bowel complaint which these insects are chiefly instrumental in spreading. It is estimated that deaths from these latter maladies in New York would be reduced from 7,000 to about 2,000 a year if proper precaution were taken against the breeding of flies.

In view of these facts and others presently to be recited, it is not surprising that some communities, notably Washington, should have begun crusades against the fly pest. People in many parts of the country are beginning to wake up to the fact that the insect is not only a nuisance, but a menace to health and life. Health boards in various cities are taking action; some of the state boards of health are doing likewise; and the Federal authorities are cooperating by every means in their power—the great object in view being to arouse public sentiment on the subject by making the facts widely known.

Publicity is what is principally wanted. It is a question of educating the people on the subject—of making clear to them the mischief done by house-flies, and the ease with which the pest can be done away with the adoption of a few simple precautions. Only the other day a large poster sheet was issued by the state board of health Florida, intended for wide distribution, and to be tacked up in all public places—the printed information being rendered more impressive by a vividly drawn series of pictures showing flies winging their way directly from garbage cans, leaps of filth, and other sources of pollution to the food on the dinner table, the baby's milk, and the bedside of the typhoid fever patient.

It is, in short, an anti-pollution crusade that has been begun. The people must be made to realize that the house-fly is, of all existing creatures, the most dangerous to mankind. While—owing to the cause above mentioned—it makes a specialty of intestinal diseases, it is a carrier of tuberculosis. Tubercular material, like any other nastiness, attracts the insect, and for this reason should be carefully protected from flies. Otherwise they will carry the germ to the kitchen and table, depositing them upon food.

To protect all kinds of foodstuff from flies is now realized to be of the utmost importance. Indeed, the ominous buzzing so frequently heard in the pantry is far more to be dreaded than the high keyed note of the mosquito in the sleeping room above. For there is no such thing as a clean house-fly: the insect, bred in filth, is always a carrier of microbes. Microscopic examinations made by the health authorities of New York City, in 1917, showed that the average fly, among 414 of the insects examined between July 27 and August 20, the height of fly time, carried on its body 1,222,570 bacteria.

These experiments indicated that the number of bacteria on a fly may range from 55 to 6,633,000. As summer advances, the number of germs per insect rapidly increases. The method adopted was to catch the individual fly with a sterile fly net, introduce it into a sterilized bottle of water and shake the bottle to wash the germs from its body—the result being what would happen if the fly had fallen into a jug of milk. Some of the flies were captured in cow-stables, pig-pens and swill barrels. It is from such favorite haunts that they come direct to our kitchens and dinner-tables.

So conspicuous is the house-fly as an agent for the distribution of typhoid fever that the government bureau of entomology suggests the appropriateness of calling it the "typhoid fly." Beyond question it was mainly accountable for the outbreaks of this deadly disease in our military camps during the war with Spain in 1898. Every regiment developed typhoid within eight weeks after assembling in the encampments, and in every one of the camps, in the North as well as in the South, the malady became epidemic.

From first to last, one in every five of our soldiers in the national encampments developed the disease, and of the total deaths more than eighty per cent were caused by typhoid. It was the flies that did it. Indeed, they were seen walking over the food the kitchen tents and mess tents with their feet visibly whitened by lime from the camp latrines. Every man sick with typhoid became a fresh source through the medium of the insects of infection for his comrades. In autumn, as the weather grew cooler, the flies gradually disappeared of course, and the disease diminished and proportionately with the death of the pernicious pests.

Thus was furnished a very striking object lesson in the relation between the house-fly and typhoid fever. But there is plenty of other evidence. Physicians have hitherto been accustomed to regard as inevitable what they call the "fall rise" in typhoid deaths—that is to say, the marked increase in the number of such deaths in the autumn of each year. But it is noticeable that if the time be set back two months, from the report of death to the contraction of the disease, it exactly corresponds to the period when flies are most numerous and active. In other words, the flies do the mischief, and about sixty days later the victims perish.

The diarrhoea, summer dysentery, and other intestinal complaints which carry off so many young children in hot weather have always been attributed mainly to temperature. But it is now realized that this was a mistake. The diseases in question are so prevalent at that time of the year because it is then that flies are most numerous. They are caused by specific and well-recognized germs, which the flies distribute. Hence—as is now for the first time understood—the relative immunity of breastfed babies to such complaints, as compared with infants artificially fed, whose food is more or less exposed to the dangerous insect.

It would be incorrect to suppose that flies are alone responsible for the distribution of typhoid fever. There are other sources of infection, notably water and milk. But the insect is certainly one of the principal agents concerned; and as for dysentery and other intestinal disorders it unquestionably is the chief mischief-maker. In New York city several local epidemics of typhoid have been traced to flies and figures of deaths and of fly multiplication, reduced to mathematical curves, have shown that these infectious bowel complaint, which cause so great an annual slaughter of young children, increase and diminish exactly with the argumentation and falling off of the number of flies.

In order to make the experiment as fair as possible, the flies wanted for bacteriological examination were caught in cages in various parts of New York—on the water front, in the slum districts, on Fifth Avenue uptown, and elsewhere. One was captured on South Street, which on inspection was found to be carrying in his mouth and on his legs over 100,000 fecal microbes. He had been walking over filth on the waterfront, and was on his way to the nearest milk-pitcher. Similar studies, by the way, were made last summer in the city of Washington, including "intensive" observations of both flies and diseases in a district comprising eight squares. The results are not yet quite ready for publication.

A Fourth of July Statement
We have been asked to write something pertinent to patriotism. Here it is:
General George B. Cosby, aged 69, a native of Kentucky, one of the few surviving brigadiers of the Confederate army, committed suicide at Oakland, Cal., on last Tuesday, June 29, by inhaling gas. Almost alone, helpless from paralysis, his comrades dead or scattered, the old veteran could not continue the struggle against poverty, isolation and disease. Either, perhaps, he would have bravely endured, but the tie, coupled with old age, beat out the desire for life.

Our nation is the greatest since time began. It has been the most generous in its treatment of other nations. Let it crown itself with fadeless laurels by recognizing the valor and devotion of those who followed Lee and Jackson, in making them eligible to the pension roll. They may not desire it but that has no bearing on the matter. Give them the right to accept. It can then be truly said that we are a united nation.

We have watched these men in gray for many years. Begged at Appomattox, they faced a dismal future with the serene courage of unwhipped heroes. They started afresh the battle of life and at least ninety-five per cent of them made good; an enormous and unparalleled percentage of them are substantial and upright citizens of their communities. And among the thousands we know and have known, we never heard a whimper. All the difficulties and privations incident to starting anew were borne in manly silence. They were heroes in war and then became heroes in peace. They are our friends and brothers, and as such should stand on the same footing. Let us remove the chance that some comrade, like General Cosby, battling with age and disease, shall find poverty the cruel force that impels him to destroy himself.—West Virginia News.

Don'ts for Good Roads.

Mr Robert A. Meeker, state supervisor of New Jersey's 1,400 miles of high grade roads, most of which were inspected recently by the Maryland Good Roads commission, has prepared a number of "don'ts" for road-builders. These "don'ts," which are the result of Mr. Meeker's extensive experience in road building, will no doubt be found as full of wisdom when applied to other roads as to New Jersey roads. They are as follows:

Don't leave the grass and weeds on the shoulders and in the gutters.

Don't dig the mud out of the gutter and throw it on the road. Don't leave dirt in piles on the road.

Don't throw grass and weeds upon the road surface.

Don't dump stone and gravel on an old road without first preparing the surface to receive it because you thereby cause willful waste and woeful want.

Don't place new material on the road without leveling and shaping it so that the grade and cross-section of the road will remain unchanged.

Don't expect travel to spread and roll the new material: one half the money spent is wasted by this method.

Don't put new material on an old, hard road surface before first picking or loosening the old covering. To do so is good for the quarryman and gravel owner, but bad for the taxpayer and road user.

Don't try to work without proper tools. Don't think any tools are good enough for road work.

Don't waste your rainy days. Don't let water stand on your road.

Don't try to repair a road in dry weather without a liberal use of water.

Don't allow culverts or pipes to become choked up.

Don't allow the outlets of under drains to become stopped up.

Don't let water get under a road. Don't let rats form.

Don't let the shoulders get higher than the center of the road. Don't let the road lose its original cross-section.

Don't fail to widen your fills at every opportunity. No better place for the mud, grass and weeds taken off the road than on the sides or high embankments.

Don't use guard rails if you can get dirt to widen your roads.

Don't bury a stone road under mud.

Don't crown your road so high that no one will travel on the sides.

Don't forget that the entire width of a road is intended for use.

Don't expect a road to take care of itself.

Don't fail to locate all good repair material lying on or near the road.

Don't be constantly changing your road gang.

Don't let experienced men go simply to give someone a job.

Don't lose sight of the fact that road repairing is a trade and must be learned.

Don't guess at the amount of material required. Measure and know.

Don't refuse to try any new material that may be offered, unless the same has been proved bad.

Don't be satisfied with anything but the best. Road-workers, don't fail to cut this out and save it.

Those Laundry Marks.

The laundry that they get from me was marked quite plainly G. R. B. They sent it back. I wrote that day A collar owned by R. A. J. It went again. I had to try To wear the shirts of M. S. I. Once more they look it off, and so I wear the things of B. M. O. Again, I wear now, I confess Pajamas meant for S. G. S. The last just broke this heart of mine: I can't wear the things marked Angeline. —New York Sun.

Furry - Reed.

A quietly arranged marriage occurred Friday, July 2nd, 1929, at Inframonte Cottage, West Marlinton, when John David Furry and Miss Maxie Reed were united in holy matrimony, by the Rev. Wm. T. Price, D. D., officiating minister. The groom is a native of Monroe, but for some years has been an operative on the Braucher mill, and is a much respected young citizen. The bride is a daughter of Mr and Mrs Houston Reed, of the Hollywood vicinity, Monroe county, but for some time a resident of Pocahontas, and has many attached friends. The parties were attended by Miss Minnie Lucas, escorted by Luther Reed, a brother of the bride. The parties boarded the evening train for a visit to relatives and friends in Monroe and expect to be at home in Braucher by the fifteenth of July. Many are the good wishes that theirs may be all that a happy marriage implies.

NOTICE.

All parties desiring the Marlinton Light and Water Company to supply them with Electrical energy will take notice of the following rules.

The wiring will have to be installed for the 3 wire system of the Co so the unbalanced load will not be over 1-2 Amperes on each circuit of 6 amperes.

The Company will go over any plans of wiring free of charge and advise with parties so the wiring will conform to the 3 wire system and the rules of the Company.

We hereby give 4 months Notice to all parties using Electrical Energy of the company, that where the wiring shows unbalanced load of over 1-2 Amperes on any one circuit of 6 amperes or less to have the same changed so the unbalanced load will not exceed the 1-2 Amperes of the Circuit.

Unbalanced loads by improper wiring for the 3 wire system of the Company to a certain extent hurts the Electric Service.

This Notice is therefore given for betterment of the Electric Service, Marlinton Light and Water Co., L. M. McCLINTIC Receiver.

To the Public.

No trespassing allowed on the land of S. E. McNeel in passing rough or going to grave yard as we have made a road to same and all must travel it. Also forbid any more graves being dug in new part of graveyard.

S. E. McNEEL.

Notice

For Sale: 300 acres fine timber white pine; white and red oak; hemlock in the main. On Sidington creek, eight miles from railway. Supposed to cut five million feet. Title perfect. Apply to

W. W. GALFORD, DUNMORE, W. Va.

Marlinton Novelty Works

Prepared to do all kinds of repairing. Old trunks finished over: old locks and hinges replaced with new ones. Old furniture cleaned and polished like new. We also build portable play houses for the children. Any size; a child can take them down and set them up. We make a specialty of Grape and flower arbors; any size. In fact, anything in the novelty line for the house and lawn. Call and see us Shop in rear of Pocahontas Drug Store. M. E. RODGERS.

Leading Livery.

Successors of W. Malcomb and Sons.

I have just added to my barn quite a large amount of shed room for both buggies and horses. Box Stalls for Stable Horses. Horses boarded by day or month. A nice line of new buggies and urrays just received. Prices always right. All calls promptly answered day or night. Come and see me when you want anything; even your horse feed. Yours to Please, G. W. CLARK. Always horses for sale or exchange.

READ THIS LETTER.

To all Loyal Citizens of West Virginia:

The Southern States Mutual Life Insurance Company (the West Virginia Company) has been in business in this state three years. During that period it has paid every claim against it promptly, and has issued to its policy holders the most modern and liberal policies known to the insurance world. It has backed these policies not only by the reserves required by the excellent laws of West Virginia, but an additional and voluntary reserve of many thousand dollars. During the three years, its money has been invested in improving West Virginia by making loans upon real estate, principally for building purposes. These loans made and in process aggregate \$277,828.56, number of loans 89, averaging \$3,121.67 each; made for the following purposes:

For building or paying liens upon public buildings	\$70,000.00
For building or paying liens upon store buildings	37,200.00
For building or paying liens upon residences	141,327.60
Policy loans, bonds and miscellaneous	29,300.95

West Virginia should be proud of their Home Company, and of the results already accomplished by patronizing it.

SOUTHERN STATES MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY.

Charleston, West Virginia.

Ask us about policy forms, rates, etc. giving—

Date Of Birth _____

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Name _____

Address _____
